



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

February 13, 2008

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Noted African-American Poet Patricia Smith to Speak at Eastern**

**Willimantic, Conn.** – Renowned African American poet Patricia Smith will visit Eastern Connecticut State University on Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Theatre. The event is sponsored by Eastern’s Women’s Center. Smith also will conduct a workshop for aspiring young writers from 3:30-4:45 p.m. at the Student Center Café. The public is invited. Admission is free to both events.

Smith has written a number of celebrated poetry books, including “*Teahouse of the Almighty*,” which won a National Poetry Series award; *Close to Death*; and *Life According to Motown*. She has also written a work for children, “*Janna and the Kings*.” Smith is a four-time winner of the National Poetry Slam and appeared in HBO’s Def Poetry Jam. She has been inducted into the International Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent, and has won the 2007 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award.

“My students have been impressed by the strength of Patricia Smith’s poetry, which often features her fearless engagement with politics, childhood violence, the legacies of slavery and ongoing racism,” says Maureen McDonnell, professor of English. “I’m thrilled that the Eastern community has created this opportunity for us all to engage more fully with Ms. Smith’s work.”

For more information, contact McDonnell at (860) 465-0268 or e-mail  
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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

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